

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method comprising:
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group name of the one or more group names;
determining a first group access control list for ~~[[a]]~~ the first one group name of the group names in the directory, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose ~~directory~~ entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory;
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name, granting access to the respective data source to the users in the first group access control list.
2. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password; and
wherein the method further comprises authenticating each user ID using the associated user password.
3. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of hostnames;
wherein the directory comprises a first hostname; and
wherein the method further comprises:

for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose directory entries comprise the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the first hostname.

4. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the data source comprises a file or a directory in a file system coupled to the multi-user computing environment.
5. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the access comprises read access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to read the data source.
6. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the access comprises write access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to write to the data source.
7. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the access comprises execute access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to execute the data source.
8. (original) The method of claim 1,
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name and owner but denies access to others,

denying access to the data source to users who are not in the first group access control list and who are not the owner of the data source.

9. (original) The method of claim 1,
wherein the multi-user computing environment comprises a UNIX-based operating system.
10. (currently amended) A system comprising:
a file system which comprises one or more data sources including a first data source;
a directory server which is operable configured to store a plurality of ~~directory~~ entries in a directory for a plurality of users, wherein each ~~directory~~ entry comprises a user ID and one or more group names which denote groups to which the user ID belongs, wherein at least one of the ~~directory~~ entries comprises a first group name of the one or more group names; and
a first group access control list which is generated from the ~~directory~~ entries, wherein the first group access control list is stored in the file system outside of the directory server, wherein the first group access control list comprises the at least one user IDs belonging to the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is usable to permit access to the first data source to user IDs belonging to the first group name.
11. (original) The system of claim 10,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password, wherein the user password is usable to authenticate the corresponding user ID for access to the one or more data sources.
12. (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
a host computer system coupled to the file system;
wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of host names such that the directory server comprises a first host name

corresponding to the host computer system, and wherein access is granted to the first data sources to users seeking access from the host computer system.

13. (original) The system of claim 10,
wherein the access to the first data source comprises read access.
14. (original) The system of claim 10,
wherein the access to the first data source comprises write access.
15. (original) The system of claim 10,
wherein the access to the first data source comprises execute access.
16. (original) The system of claim 10, further comprising:
an operating system which is operable to restrict user access to the data sources in the file system.
17. (currently amended) A carrier medium comprising program instructions which are computer-executable to implement:
populating a directory with entries for each of a plurality of users of a multi-user computing environment, wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user ID and one or more group names, wherein each of the one or more group names corresponds to a group to which the user ID belongs, and wherein at least one of the entries in the directory comprises a first group name of the one or more group names;
determining a first group access control list for ~~[[a]]~~ the first one group name of the group names in the directory, wherein the first group access control list comprises the user IDs of users whose ~~directory~~ entries comprise the first group name, and wherein the first group access control list is stored outside of the directory;

for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name, granting access to the respective data source to the users in the first group access control list.

18. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises a user password; and
wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement authenticating each user ID using the associated user password.
19. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein each entry in the directory comprises zero, one, or a plurality of hostnames;
wherein the directory comprises a first hostname; and
wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement :
for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first hostname, granting access to the data source to the one or more users whose entries comprise the first hostname and who are seeking access from the host having the first hostname.
20. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the data source comprises a file or a directory in a file system coupled to the multi-user computing environment.
21. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,
wherein the access comprises read access; and
wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to read the data source.
22. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,

wherein the access comprises write access; and

wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to write to the data source.

23. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,

wherein the access comprises execute access; and

wherein the granting access to the data source to the users in the first group access control list comprises permitting the users in the first group access control list to execute the data source.

24. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17, wherein the program instructions are further computer-executable to implement:

for each data source in the multi-user computing environment which permits access by the first group name and owner but denies access to others, denying access to the data source to users who are not in the first group access control list and who are not the owner of the data source.

25. (original) The carrier medium of claim 17,

wherein the multi-user computing environment comprises a UNIX-based operating system.